

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



April 7, 2003



*This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email [edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil](mailto:edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil).*

## U.S. surrounds key buildings in Baghdad

by Meg Richards, Associated Press

U.S. forces barreled into the heart of Baghdad with a dramatic show of force Monday and met pockets of fierce resistance. British officials said troops found a body in southern Iraq that they believed was the notorious Iraqi general known as "ChemicalAli."

Missiles screamed over the Iraqi capital just after dawn and thunderous explosions shook buildings as the 2nd Brigade of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division moved north into the city and seized a presidential palace. In southern Baghdad, Iraqi rockets struck a group of Army personnel carriers at the brigade's field headquarters, according to a military report. Two soldiers and two journalists - one Spanish and one German - were killed, and several others were wounded.

To the south, British troops gained control over much of Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, and were pressing into the old city where the last

paramilitary fighters had retreated. Some Basra residents cheered the British, while others went on a looting rampage, streaming out of the Central Bank of Iraq and the bomb-damaged Sheraton Hotel with chairs, tables, carpets and other goods. Some civilians lashed out at Saddam loyalists, killing several militiamen and a policeman.

In a sign of growing confidence on the part of the coalition, the U.S. war commander, Gen. Tommy Franks, visited troops inside Iraq, including soldiers in the holy Shiite city of Najaf. Central Command Spokesman Capt. Frank Thorp said Franks made three stops in Iraq on Monday, but gave no details.

U.S. troops in Baghdad stormed Saddam's New Presidential Palace and set up a prisoner of war holding pen inside the elaborate compound on the west bank of the Tigris, a winding river that divides the city. The ruling Baath Party headquarters nearby was completely destroyed. Up the river at the Old Palace, the sound of explosions and heavy fire could be heard. In the center of the city, U.S. forces



*A U.S. tank guards one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Baghdad, Monday, April 7, 2003. Coalition soldiers took over key buildings Monday, as gunfire and explosions thundered in many parts of the battered Iraqi capital. (AP Photo/John Moore)*

used explosives to destroy two statues of Saddam.

Iraqi snipers later fired on U.S. soldiers from rooms inside the Al-Rashid Hotel. U.S. tanks returned fire with their main guns and .50 caliber machine guns, according to military radio reports. Iraqi forces also took up positions in the University of Baghdad, across the river from the New Presidential Palace, and fired heavy machine guns. U.S. troops called in mortar fire and air support. The Tigris at this point is about 1,200 feet wide.

The drive into Baghdad was meant to send a strong signal about the coalition's ability to enter at will. The resistance encountered along the way was "worthy of respect," Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks said Monday, though the Iraqi fighters, "may be dying for a regime that does not have a future."

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# Lynch to rescuers: ‘I’m an American soldier, too’

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 5, 2003 – The special operations mission to rescue Army Pfc. Jessica D. Lynch from Iraqi captivity was a triumph of joint planning and execution, said Air Force Maj. Gen. Victor Renuart.

Renuart, operations chief at U.S. Central Command, gave more information about the Lynch rescue during a press conference in Qatar today.

Lynch was taken prisoner by Iraqi forces when the convoy she was riding in was ambushed by Iraqi irregulars near Nasiriyah March 23.

Renuart said that U.S. forces in the area began to get some indications from local contacts that there was an injured American being held at the hospital in Nasiriyah. Special operations forces further solidified the data.

“Anytime we have a situation like that, we put together a planning team that investigates the intelligence and decides, is this credible, and if so, do we have the capability to respond to recover our service member?” Renuart said.

The team decided the intelligence was right, and special operators put the plan into motion. On April 1, U.S. Army Rangers, Special Forces and aviators; U.S. Navy SEALs; Air Force pilots and combat controllers; and U.S. Marine elements launched the mission.

Renuart said speed was essential to rescue Lynch and to “exploit some areas of the hospital where we had reports of enemy headquarters, command-and-control facilities and the like.”

One unit of Marines created a diversion in Nasiriyah. Another element, using helicopters and ground transport, brought the special operations team to the hospital.

“Upon entering the hospital, the assault force actually persuaded a local physician to lead them to Private Lynch’s location, and this local physician claimed at the same time that there were ... remains of other U.S. military either in the morgue or possibly buried close by,” Renuart said.

As the rescue team members entered Lynch’s hospital room, they called her name. “She had been scared, had the sheet up over her head because she didn’t know what was happening,” Renuart said. “She lowered the sheet from her head. She didn’t really respond yet because I think she was probably pretty scared.

One team member repeated, “‘Jessica Lynch, we’re the United States soldiers and we’re here to protect you and take you home,’” the general said. “She seemed to understand that. And as he walked over and took his helmet off, she looked up to him and said, ‘I’m an American soldier, too.’”

A U.S. physician with the team evaluated her condition and the team evacuated her. She had injuries both to her legs, her arm, a head injury, and seemed to be in a fair amount of pain, Renuart said.

One helicopter transported her to another nearby waiting aircraft, which would then move her to a field hospital, Renuart continued. “Jessica held up her hand and grabbed the Ranger doctor’s hand, held on to it for the entire time and said, ‘Please don’t let anybody leave me.’ It was clear she knew where she was and she didn’t want to be left anywhere in the hands of the enemy,” he noted.

While the rescue was ongoing, other team members were led to a burial site containing bodies they thought might be American. “They ... did not have shovels in order to dig those graves up, so they dug them up with their hands,” Renuart said. “They wanted to do that very rapidly so that they could race the sun and be off the site before the sun came up — a great testament to the will and desire of coalition forces to bring their own home.”

The team evacuated the bodies, and they were returned to the United States for forensic testing.

DoD identified eight of the bodies as American soldiers: Sgt. George E. Buggs, 31, of Barnwell, S.C.; Master Sgt. Robert J. Dowdy, 38, of Cleveland, Ohio; Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto, 18, of El Paso, Texas; Spc. James M. Kiehl, 22, of Comfort, Texas; Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Villareal Mata, 35, of Amarillo, Texas; Pfc. LoriAnn Piestewa, 23, of Tuba City, Ariz.; Pvt. Brandon U. Sloan, 19, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Sgt. Donald R. Walters, 33, of Kansas City, Mo.

Buggs was with the 3rd Division Support Battalion of Fort Stewart, Ga. All the rest from Lynch’s unit, the 507th Maintenance Company from Fort Bliss, Texas.

Lynch remains under treatment at the Lanstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.



*Commander in Chief of the coalition forces in Iraq Gen. Tommy Franks addresses soldiers of the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division during a short visit in An-Najaf, Iraq, Monday, April 7, 2003. (AP Photo/Jean-Marc Bouju)*

# 101st soldiers find chemical compound in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. military is testing samples from a site in Iraq where soldiers found possible chemical weapons, defense officials said Monday.

Testing at laboratories in the United States has to be completed before the presence of chemical weapons could be confirmed, the officials said.

Soldiers from the Army's 101st Airborne Division found the suspicious material in a compound near the Iraqi city of Hindiyah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld acknowledged reports about the site Monday but said first reports are often incorrect.

"We have to take our time and look at it," Rumsfeld said, adding that getting samples back to the United States and completing testing can take days.

A Knight Ridder News Service journalist traveling with the unit said initial tests of samples from the facility were inconsistent. Some tests did not indicate chemical weapons, while others indicated the presence of G-class nerve agents - which include sarin and tabun - and mustard agent, a blistering chemical first used in World War I.

The Knight Ridder reporter, Tom Lasseter, also reported that he and several soldiers were decontaminated after some of the soldiers felt ill while searching the compound. Officials at the Pentagon said they did not have any information about anyone getting sick.

If the discovery was confirmed, it would be the first find of chemical weapons during the war. Finding and eliminating Saddam Hussein's chemical and biological weapons is a goal of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, and finding such weapons of mass destruction could mute international criticism of the war.

Iraq acknowledged making tons of sarin, tabun, mustard and other chemical weapons. Iraq used mustard and sarin against Iran during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and is believed to have used the chemicals against Kurdish Iraqis.

Sarin and tabun are related nerve agents that can kill when absorbed through the skin or inhaled as a gas. They kill by causing convulsions, paralysis and asphyxiation.

Mustard agent begins dissolving tissues on contact and is particularly harmful to eyes and lungs. It does not usually kill but causes painful injuries that can linger for a lifetime.

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## M88 at work

*A U.S. Army vehicle from the 4th Battalion 64 Armor Regiment "Assasins" smashes a statue of Saddam Hussein outside the Iraqi Republican Guard's Medina Division headquarters south of Baghdad Saturday, April 5, 2003. U.S. forces took over the compound Saturday, which had been heavily bombed by the U.S.-led airstrikes and abandoned by Iraqi forces.(AP Photo/John Moore)*



## **U.S. surrounds key buildings in Baghdad continued**

Iraq's command structure is so badly damaged, he said, there is only a small amount of communication between Saddam's remaining forces.

"What we don't see is an overarching structure that can order action from north to south and east to west, throughout the country. Only the coalition has that capability right now," Brooks said at Central Command. "And as each day passes, there's less and less that the regime can do to order action by their forces."

Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, standing on the roof of Baghdad's Palestine Hotel, denied his city had been invaded. Sirens could be heard as he spoke and clouds of dust blew past - remnants of a sandstorm and smoke from oil fires set by the Iraqis to obscure targets.

"They are sick in their minds. They say they brought 65 tanks into center of city. I say to you this talk is not true," al-Sahhaf said. "There is no presence of American infidels in the city of Baghdad, at all."

Armed militiamen and Iraqi soldiers patrolled the street outside the Information Ministry. Most Iraqis stayed indoors, but some shops were open and public buses were running. Iraqi TV and state radio stayed on the air, broadcasting patriotic songs, religious sermons and archival footage of Saddam.

On the southern outskirts of Baghdad, two Marines were killed and two others were injured when their vehicle was struck by an artillery shell at a bridge over a canal. The 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines fought for the highway bridge that leads into the city Sunday, and were trying to cross it when they were hit Monday morning, Lt. Col. B.P. McCoy said.

The Marines quickly worked to repair the bridge while others crossed on foot to secure the opposite side of the canal, wary of booby traps that may have been set by Saddam's Fedayeen militia.

Troops everywhere have been warned of possible suicide attacks, including by bombers in ambulances. There were also reports from the field that Iraqis in civilian vehicles, possibly carrying bombs, had attempted to ram coalition tanks.

It's not clear how many Iraqis have been hurt or killed in Baghdad. The International Committee of the Red Cross said Sunday that hospitals in the city have stopped counting the number of people treated.

In the southern port city of Basra, British forces consider their biggest threat to be militia fighters still roaming the city. But with the suspected death of Iraqi Gen. Ali Hassan al-Majid, Iraqi fighters and Baath Party militants may be rudderless.

British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said he had not yet confirmed that al-Majid had been killed, though the evidence was strong. Al-Majid, a cousin of Saddam, gained the nickname "Chemical Ali" for ordering a poison gas attack that killed thousands of Kurds in 1988. His home was targeted in coalition airstrikes over the weekend.



*U.S. Army Sgt. Johnny Monroe from A Company 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment examines silverware found during a search in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces damaged after a bombing, in Baghdad Monday, April 7, 2003. (AP Photo/John Moore)*

His death should show the people of southern Iraq "that the regime is finished," said Group Capt. Al Lockwood, spokesman for British forces.

Also to the south, U.S. forces took control of the center of the holy city of Karbala, the Army Times newspaper reported Sunday.

At Baghdad's airport, members of the 101st Airborne Division fought Iraqis in military uniform in a prolonged overnight battle, and fended off sporadic raids Monday. At least 150 Iraqi fighters were killed. The attacks followed the coalition's first use of the airport's runways. A C-130 transport plane landed there Sunday, foreshadowing a major resupply effort for U.S. troops, dependent until now on a tenuous line stretching 350 miles to Kuwait.

Also Monday, President Bush flew to Belfast for a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The coalition partners will discuss peace efforts in Northern Ireland and the Middle East, but their summit is primarily meant to review war progress and to iron out differences about how Iraq will be rebuilt and governed when hostilities end.

Several opposition leaders have slipped into southern Iraq in recent days. Ahmad Chalabi, who has lobbied to head a transitional government, arrived in the southern town of Nasiriyah on Sunday with 700 supporters. A spokesman for his Iraqi National Congress said the group went in unarmed and will take orders from the U.S. military. The group's members may fight, work as translators and provide other aid, U.S. Defense Department officials said.

The Iran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the largest opposition group, also plans to return. It claims to have 10,000 fighters, and has rejected the idea of having the allies form a new government in Iraq.

# U.K.: ‘Chemical Ali’ found dead in Basra

by Tina Tran

BASRA, Iraq (AP) - Ali Hassan al-Majid, one of the most brutal members of President Saddam Hussein's inner circle, was apparently killed by an airstrike on his house in Basra, British officials said Monday. He had been dubbed "Chemical Ali" by opponents for ordering a 1988 poison gas attack that killed thousands of Kurds.

Maj. Andrew Jackson of the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment told The Associated Press that his superiors had reported the death of the man who was Saddam's first cousin, entrusted with defending southern Iraq against invading coalition forces.

Al-Majid apparently was killed on Saturday when two coalition aircraft used laser-guided munitions to attack his house in Basra. Jackson said a body that was thought to be his was found along with that of his bodyguard and the head of Iraqi intelligence services in Basra.

"We have some strong indications that he was killed in the raid," said British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon. "I cannot yet absolutely confirm the fact that he (al-Majid) is dead, but that would certainly be my best judgment of the situation."

U.S. Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, at a daily briefing in Qatar, said he did not have any confirmed reports on whether al-Majid was dead.

Brooks said the coalition had seen evidence of Iraqi leaders in their homes recently and "we believe that Ali Hassan al-Majid - 'Chemical Ali' - may have been in a home."

"Where we have the opportunity, we may direct an attack against that," he said.



*Iraqi Gen. Ali Hassan al-Majid is seen in this Jan. 17, 2003 file photo. al-Majid, dubbed "Chemical Ali" by opponents of the Iraqi regime for ordering a poison gas attack that killed thousands of Kurds, has been found dead, a British officer said Monday, April 7, 2003. Maj. Andrew Jackson of the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment told The Associated Press that his superiors had confirmed the death of the man who is also President Saddam Hussein's first cousin. (AP Photo/Bassem Tellawi)*

Jackson said the apparent discovery of al-Majid's body was one of the reasons the British decided to move infantry into Basra, because they hoped that resistance in the southern Iraqi city might crumble with the top leadership gone.

"The regime is finished. It is over, and liberation is here," said Group Capt. Al Lockwood, spokesman for British forces in the Gulf. "The leadership is now gone in southern Iraq."

Believed to be in his fifties, al-Majid led a 1988 campaign against rebellious Kurds in northern Iraq in which whole villages were wiped out. An estimated 100,000 Kurds, mostly civilians, were killed.

Al-Majid also has been linked to the bloody crackdown on Shiites in southern Iraq after their uprising following the 1991 Gulf War. Prior to that, he served as governor of Kuwait during Iraq's seven-month occupation of its neighbor in 1990-1991 - an invasion that led to the Gulf War.

Human rights groups had called for al-Majid's arrest on war crimes charges when he toured Arab capitals last January seeking to rally support against mounting U.S. pressure on Saddam's regime.

"Al-Majid is Saddam Hussein's hatchet man," Kenneth Roth, head of Human Rights Watch in New York, said at the time. "He has been involved in some of Iraq's worst crimes, including genocide and crimes against humanity."

Hazem al-Youssefi, Cairo representative of the opposition Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, described al-Majid as a standout in a regime of criminals.

Al-Majid was a warrant officer and motorcycle messenger in the army before Saddam's Baath party led a coup in 1968. He was promoted to general and served as defense minister from 1991-95, as well as a regional party leader.

In 1988, as the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war was winding down, he commanded a scorched-earth campaign to wipe out a Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq. Later, he boasted about the attacks,



*Government soldiers search buses on Friday, April 4, 2003 in Kandahar looking for suspected Taliban. The Taliban is not only determined to remain a force in Afghanistan, but it is reorganizing and reviving its command structure. (AP Photo/Amir Shah)*

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*A soldier of the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division looks at displayed Iraqi weapons seized in a school before the visit of Commander in Chief of the coalition forces in Iraq Gen. Tommy Franks in An-Najaf, Iraq, Monday, April 7, 2003. (AP Photo/Jean-Marc Bouju)*

### **U.K.: 'Chemical Ali' found dead in Basra continued**

including the March 16, 1988, poison gas strike on the village of Halabja, where an estimated 5,000 people died.

During April 1991 peace talks in Baghdad, the Kurdish delegation leader, Jalal Talabani, told al-Majid that more than 200,000 Kurds lost their lives in the Iraqi campaign. Al-Majid replied that the figure was exaggerated and the dead were not more than 100,000, according to Arab press reports.

After Iraq's 1991 Shiite Muslim uprising was crushed, Iraqi opposition groups released a video they said had been smuggled out of southern Iraq. In the video, which was shown on several Arab TV networks, al-Majid was seen executing captured rebels with pistol shots to the head and kicking others in the face as they sat on the ground.

He was no less brutal with his own family.

His nephew and Saddam's son-in-law, Lt. Gen. Hussein Kamel, was in charge for many years of Iraq's clandestine weapons programs before defecting in 1995 to Jordan with his brother, Saddam Kamel, who was married to Saddam's other daughter.

Both brothers were lured back to Iraq in February 1996 and killed on their uncle's orders, together with several other family members.

Syria and Lebanon ignored international calls to arrest al-Majid when he visited in January. He dropped scheduled stops in Jordan and Egypt - both U.S. allies. Egypt refused to receive him and the Jordanian government denied a visit was ever planned.

## **Afghan deputy commander killed in blast at Army camp**

JALALABAD, Afghanistan (AP) - A bomb exploded at an Afghan army base on Saturday, wounding an officer and four other soldiers, officials said.

The explosion at the Army's 14th Garrison headquarters in the eastern city of Jalalabad injured deputy commander Syed Rehman, said Haji Tahir, head of the garrison.

Journalists were barred by Afghan officials from entering the base, but residents said they saw heavy smoke coming out of the compound after the explosion.

The bomb was powerful enough to shatter windows in several nearby houses.

No group has claimed responsibility for the explosion, but immediate suspicion fell on remnants of former Taliban regime and al-Qaida.

Tahir said he has ordered an investigation into the blast.

Several small explosions have occurred in Jalalabad in recent months. They are usually blamed on Taliban and al-Qaida members, who can easily flee to neighboring Pakistan or to nearby provinces.

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# Ordnance ‘non-combat’ soldier is tops in AUSA contest

by Terry Boyd, Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — When Spc. Justin Brown returned to Baumholder in September after winning the Association of the United States Army’s Soldier of The Year, his noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Brannin and Brannin’s wife, Jutta, picked him up and suggested a detour past the base.



*Spc. Justin Brown — Association of the United States Army’s Soldier of the Year. He is a test, measurement and diagnostic equipment maintenance support specialist for the 1st Armored Division*

“I thought, ‘Oh, what’s going on now?’” recalls Brown of the 1st Armored Division’s Company D, 95th Maintenance Battalion. “As we got to the main gate, Jutta says, ‘Hey, check out the sign!’”

The sign for the entrance to H.D. Smith Barracks had a recent addition — a sign atop the 1st Armored Division’s emblem reading, “Spec. Justin Brown — Army Soldier of the Year.”

“I know I was beet-red,” Brown says, “but I also had a smile that lasted the rest of that day. And then some.”

Though Brown jokes his celebrity wore off in about two months — “and I haven’t signed an autograph yet” — they were heady days. At the AUSA’s competition in Fort Meyer, Va., Brown met top Army officers including Gen.

Eric Shinseki, chief of staff of the Army. Since then, he’s gotten more than \$9,000 worth of goods in a free commissary shopping trip for being honored by the group — a private, nonprofit educational

organization that supports the Army, including active duty, Reserve retirees and family members.

But winning the group’s inaugural soldier of the year title hasn’t been all glory-tripping because many soldiers were expecting the best all-around soldier to come from a combat-arms unit.

Instead, Brown’s military occupational specialty is a test, measurement and diagnostic equipment maintenance support specialist. “We repair the equipment used to repair equipment,” is the way Brown puts it. He’s one of only 150 soldiers in his occupation category in the entire Army.

Some fellow Baumholder soldiers were openly incredulous that a non-combat arms soldier got the award, but rationalize it away by saying all the war fighters were in the field, with no time for contests, Brown said. The difference between him and them is he went for it, Brown counters: “Some people just don’t seize opportunities.”

“He volunteered, and we supported him,” says Staff Sgt. Benjiman Morris, a co-worker.

And Brown kept going further and further as the competition weeded out dozens of soldiers from bases around the world by throwing everything at them from night land navigation tests to selection boards.

“Not too many people like to go before boards,” where officers and NCOs judge both objective measures of military knowledge and subjective aspects such as military bearing, Morris says.

The fact that Brown was adjudged the complete soldier reflects well

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*A member of the U.S. Navy Seabees is hugged by a young Iraqi just outside a playground set up by the Seabees in Umm Qasr, Iraq, Sunday, April 6, 2003. The southern port of Umm Qasr and the nearby city of Basra are the focus of humanitarian efforts, including restoring water supplies and building up food stocks.(AP Photo/Roberto Schmidt, POOL)*



# Iraqi exiles prove value in fighting

by Capt. Wells Parker

TASZAR, Hungary (Army News Service, April 7, 2003) — The requests are pouring into the forward office of Task Force Warrior in Kuwait.

A typical message will state, "Request 3 Free Iraqi Forces with expertise in Basra region..."

Those requests usually end up on the desk of Col. James Doyle who represents the Army training task force in Taszar, Hungary, that trained the volunteers.

"The requests are pouring in," said Doyle. "Initially, the warfighters did not know their value. Now, the secret is out about how invaluable they are. There are strong-willed exchanges among senior officers for their use."

Task Force Warrior, a training task force made up of active and Reserve soldiers representing more than 30 Army units, trained dozens of Iraqi exiles at a former Warsaw Pact base in Hungary. Elements of major Army units included the 1-61st Infantry Regiment, of Fort Jackson, S.C.; the 1-321st Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and the Warrior Brigade Headquarters, Fort Polk, La.

Volunteer Iraqi exiles from the United States, Canada and Europe received military survival training and basic military orientation from task force members in four-week courses in Hungary.

Doyle's soldiers, 350th Civil Affairs Command, of Pensacola, Fla., presented about half the instruction in military-government operations.

Some of the reservists have seen the results of the Free Iraqi Forces first-hand while visiting 101st Airborne Division units currently operating in Iraq. Those reservists included: Maj. Danny Hassig, Capt. Carl Spear and Sgt. 1st Class Mike Odette.

"I wish all our task force trainers could have seen the Free Iraqi Forces in action," said Hassig.

"The Free Iraqi Forces volunteers stood in front of the division commander pointing to the Iraqi regional maps, telling us everything that no map will show," said Hassig. "They knew the locations of reputable suppliers, locations of critical infrastructure, how to distinguish certain groups by the manner in which they pray, and warning signals of trouble that only a local would know."

The volunteers quickly proved their value, Hassig said, when Free Iraqi Forces volunteers assisted in the apprehension of two would-



*Working for the U.S. Marines 24th Expeditionary Unit as an interpreter, Khuder Al-Emeri, 43, is hugged by his sister Suhila after being reunited with local villagers after 12 years, Monday, April 7, 2003, in Qal'at Sukkar, 100 kms. north of Nasariyah, Iraq. Khuder led an uprising in his village during the last gulf war and fled to the United States in fear of reprisal from Saddam Hussein's regime. He now returns in hopes of rebuilding his village. (AP Photo/Wally Santana)*

be terrorists.

The volunteers are as valuable in their native Iraq as a Global Positioning System device, Spear said. "They are the assets that make all interaction with Iraqi civilians safer and much more productive."

The value of the volunteers is enormous, said Odette, who as a civilian serves as a prosecutor in Lake County, Fla.

"A translator can talk to Arabic or Kurdish speakers," said Odette. "This is invaluable to the front-line soldiers. A single one of our graduates can be ready at 2:17 a.m. in a sand storm when he is needed."

The Free Iraqi Forces include Saib Al-Hamdy, a practicing civil engineer who is a masters degree candidate at the University of Southern Illinois.

Al-Hamdy recently introduced himself to a Free Iraqi Forces orientation class to over 300 American soldiers.

"I have three children in America," Al-Hamdy said. "I have a son at a fine university, one a high school senior, and my little girl who is a typical American teenager."

Al-Hamdy rolled his eyes and the crowd of soldiers laughed.

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*Iraqi soldiers are seen running away on the banks of the Tigris river as U.S. tanks roll into Baghdad, outside Saddam Hussein's presidential palace, Monday April 7, 2003. Coalition soldiers took over key buildings Monday, as gunfire and explosions thundered in many parts of the battered Iraqi capital. (AP Photo/ Jerome Delay)*

## **Iraqi exiles prove value in fighting continued**

"When I first learned of the Free Iraqi Forces were forming, the recruiter mentioned a monthly payment of a little more than \$1,000. I immediately started making the arrangements so I could pay the money.

"Later, I was happy to find that it was I who would be paid and not the other way around," he said, with a big smile.

"However, I would have sold everything I own to have this significant role in Iraq's liberation. I have waited for this moment my whole life. Alongside you, and at any cost, I am here to bring freedom to my countrymen."

The crowd of young and old U.S. Army soldiers erupted in applause and shouts of "Hoo-ah!"

Free Iraqi Forces soldiers were with the front-line troops in the port city of Umm Qasr, said Hassig. The volunteers accelerated the humanitarian assistance process by their knowledge of the local language and customs.

"Each hour following Umm Qasr's liberation was critical, as supplies were needed countrywide immediately," said Hassig. "The Free Iraqi Forces saved much time, all the while building further support for the coalition forces among Iraqi citizens."

The volunteers have experienced Saddam's reign of terror.

One volunteer, Ali, remembers.

"My brother was shot 15 times by Saddam's thugs," said Ali. "My mother and father watched in horror as they delivered my brother's lifeless body to our doorstep, told us he was a disloyal and shameful disgrace, then ransacked our home for possessions when we had

no money to pay them for the 15 bullets.

"In our despair, my father still thanked God that the thugs did not kill more of our family. Many Free Iraqi Forces volunteers have much worse family hardships under Saddam than me. This is the terror that every Iraqi child grows up with."

Ali said his work in the Iraqi liberation is not of personal revenge, but of a contribution to the future.

"To bring my personal revenge will make me no better of a man than Saddam," said Ali. "My work right now is all of my passion; so that my son will never lose his brother to Saddam."

Currently, the volunteers work in such varied dimensions as refugee assistance, humanitarian aid and prisoner-of-war camps liaison. They also provide orientation training to newly arrived American soldiers.

The Free Iraqi Forces soldiers provided advice to a newly arrived unit of Army Reserve military police.

One Free Iraqi Force volunteer said to the soldiers, "Look for Iraqi people who receive unusual respect or are avoided. Look for the man whom others give their food to. Such a man is likely to cause you big problems soon."

As the training ended, the military police soldiers marched back to their barracks. Their company commander pursued Doyle.

"Sir, can we get some Free Iraqi Forces volunteers?" asked the commander.

*(Editor's note: Capt. Wells Parker is assigned to the 350th Civil Affairs Command.)*

## **Ordinance 'non-combat' soldier is tops in AUSA contest continued**

on non-combat arms types, the sergeant says.

"Sometimes people tend to look at the [tactical] soldiers in the limelight. They expect them to be in the limelight. But with a limelight, there are shadows, and that's where we work," Morris says. "It doesn't surprise me even though we're not in the limelight."

Since his award, Brown hasn't stopped pushing.

On March 12, Brown received a distinguished rating for his Primary Leadership Development Course at Grafenwöhr Training Area. The course measures garrison leadership and tactical leadership — "basically, how well you make decisions," Brown said. "Even if it's the wrong decision, at least you didn't stand there and go, 'Duhhhh.'"

In conversation, Brown is all similes and metaphors with a college-level vocabulary. He likens his technical job to a big stage production, where he's part of the crew.

"If you want to light that part of the stage," he says, gesturing to a spot, "you come to me."



*An Iraqi girl waves an American flag to U.S. Marines of the 15th Expeditionary Unit at the Marines Battalion Combat Operation Center in Nasiriyah, southern Iraq, on Monday, April 7, 2003. (AP Photo/Itsuo Inouye)*

His success is no surprise to his mother, Rhonda Mueller. She said she knew her son was different when he was a high school sophomore in Mundelein, Ill., outside Chicago, and came home toting a calculus book.

"I didn't even know what calculus was!" Mueller said. "He had been taking algebra, and he went right into calculus. It looked like Chinese to me."

Brown acknowledges he could have gone to a good college, and on to a suit-and-tie job. Except he never gave it a thought.

"Some kids grow up wanting to be a basketball player. I grew up wanting to be a soldier," he says.

In the Army, Brown found mentors early in his career — basic training drill sergeants, Sgt. Luis Billingsly and Sgt. 1st Class Earnest Eiler. Their kudos for his work ethic "made me want to do my job that much better," Brown recalls. As he was preparing to leave basic, Billingsly told him he expected to see him promoted often.

And that's his plan. While Brown clearly loves the Army, he believes it can be even better. "I'm probably going to be in a long time, because I think I can change things," he says. Like giving soldiers more than just the basics early on for crucial, demanding training such as land navigation.

Brown says he understood early what leadership means. The difference between people who demand respect and people who demonstrate real leadership "is you feel like you can trust [great leaders] with your life," Brown says.

"You figure that out if you're in the Army for more than a day."

## **Rumsfeld : Saddam not running 'much of Iraq'**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Monday that while Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's whereabouts may not be known, "we do know he no longer runs much of Iraq."

"The circle is closing, their options are running out," Rumsfeld said of Saddam and his top lieutenants.

Looking beyond Saddam, Rumsfeld said that planning is under way to turn over to Iraqis control of several government ministries other than defense and intelligence.

"It's pretty well sorted through," Rumsfeld told a Pentagon briefing.

U.S. officials envision turning over administration of Iraq to an interim Iraqi government at some point, leading to eventual elections.

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# National Security Adviser holds talks with Russia on Iraq

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told President Vladimir Putin and other top officials Monday that the United States was committed to its partnership with Russia despite the two nations' differences over the war in Iraq, a senior U.S. diplomat said.

During a 24-hour visit, Rice stressed the importance of dialogue on post-conflict Iraq and "the need to find practical solutions to humanitarian aspects and the broader reconstruction of the country," the diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

Rice also discussed Sunday's incident in which a convoy evacuating the Russian ambassador and other diplomats from Baghdad came under fire. Russia has not blamed the United States for the incident, but the ambassador, Vladimir Titorenko, said Monday that U.S. forces fired on the convoy.

"We don't take responsibility," the diplomat said, adding that the convoy was "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

U.S. and Russian officials had discussed the evacuation plans and various possible routes and passed on the information to U.S. forces but the U.S. side had stressed it couldn't give any security guarantees in a war zone, the diplomat said.

In the talks, Rice noted that Washington wants to cooperate with Russia on "post-conflict issues" but said the U.S.-led coalition would play the leading role in Iraq in the period immediately following the war, the diplomat said.

Rice met with Russian Security Council chief Vladimir Rushailo, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov and Putin's chief of staff, Alexander Voloshin. She and the two Ivanovs also met with Putin, the official said.

Putin has strongly condemned the war in Iraq, but he tempered his tone in several public statements last week, saying that a U.S. defeat would not be in Russia's interests. He said Saturday that the Kremlin would urge Russian lawmakers to ratify a key nuclear arms reduction treaty with the United States, which the lower house of parliament had postponed indefinitely last month as a sign of protest ahead of the war.

Some observers say the change in tone reflects Russia's hope of winning a role in Iraq's postwar reconstruction, as well as its desire to prevent further damage to ties with the United States.

U.S.-Russian relations had been bolstered by Putin's strong support for the U.S. war in Afghanistan, but they have been battered by the differences over the war — which have been amplified by strong anti-war sentiment among Russian citizens and the media.

Washington also accused Russian companies of shipping military equipment to Iraq, charges that Moscow denies. The U.S. diplomat said Rice discussed the issue Monday and that the United States was satisfied that officials were investigating it seriously.

The diplomat said the two sides had not narrowed their dispute over U.S. spy plane flights over the ex-Soviet republic of Georgia, near Russia's southern border, which Moscow considers a security threat but Washington sees as part of the joint anti-terror campaign. Among the possible targets of surveillance are Chechen rebels and other militants who have operated out of northern Georgia.

Rice also discussed U.S.-Russian cooperation in the fight against terrorism, nuclear proliferation problems related with North Korea and Iran, and the situation in Chechnya, the diplomat said.



*British royal engineers detonate Iraqi anti-tank mines around a bridge crossing north of Basra Sunday April 6, 2003. (AP Photo/ Bruce Adams/ Daily Mail/ Pool)*

## Police: Japanese leftists fired at U.S. base

TOKYO (Reuters) - A small militant group protesting the U.S.-led war on Iraq, has claimed responsibility for firing a projectile at a U.S. military base near Tokyo last week, police said on Monday.

An object police described only as a metal projectile was fired into the Atsugi U.S. Naval Air Facility in Kanagawa Prefecture, some 25 miles west of Tokyo, late on Thursday. There were no injuries and no damage.

An ultra-leftist group, Kakumeigun, or Revolutionary Army, claimed responsibility for the incident, a police spokesman said.

"We oppose the anti-revolutionary Iraqi war," the spokesman quoted the group as saying in a letter to local media.

It also claimed responsibility for similar attacks at another U.S. military base in Tokyo.

Police said they believed the little-known group belonged to the Revolutionary Workers' Council (Kakuryokyo), blamed for a string of high-profile projectile and arson attacks in the 1990s.

Such groups have targeted U.S. military installations in Japan in the past and the Iraq conflict has prompted police to step up security at such facilities.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has been a vocal supporter of President Bush's campaign to remove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein although polls show more than 60 percent of Japanese oppose the war in Iraq.

## Iraqi TV shows Saddam meeting son, officials

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqi television showed footage on Monday of President Saddam Hussein meeting with top aides after the United States said it stormed into the heart of the capital Baghdad and grabbed two of Saddam's palace compounds.

The president, wearing military fatigues, was shown sitting in a room with windows and with wall maps behind him.

Also seen present at the meeting were his younger son and heir apparent Qusay, Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan and Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz as well as other senior military officials.

It was not clear when the meeting took place. Elder son Uday was not shown in the film.

There has been no word on Saddam's whereabouts and there has been speculation among U.S. officials that he may have been

incapacitated in attacks on Baghdad.

He was unlikely to be anywhere near his official palaces, which have been hit repeatedly since the start of the U.S.-led war to oust him.

Taped appearances by Saddam, who never appears live on television and has not been seen in public for a couple of years, have become more frequent in recent days as U.S. forces focus their military campaign on Baghdad.

The Iraqi authorities have been at pains to insist that Saddam is still in charge and controlling his forces.

On Saturday, the television showed footage of Saddam in a meeting with his two sons, top aides and military commanders in a windowless room at a large table.



*A U.S. Army vehicle from the 4th Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, smashes a mosaic of Saddam Hussein outside the Iraqi Republican Guard Medina Division headquarters south of Baghdad Saturday, April 5, 2003. U.S. forces took over the compound Saturday, which had been heavily bombed by the U.S. Air Force and abandoned by Iraqi forces. (AP Photo/John Moore)*



# Army considering common engine for ground, air vehicles

## Inside The Army

Army aviation officials have drawn up a vision of a revolutionary common engine that can be inserted in both aerial and ground vehicles, part of larger efforts to cut maintenance costs and reduce the logistical footprint.

The common engine concept is still in its infant stages, with the vision for the program only a sketch at this time. But at least one official in the office of the G-8 sees it as the next iteration in the Army's current engine program, which is focused squarely on streamlining logistics.

"Why can't we build an engine we can put in everything?" Col. John Bendyk, chief of the aviation division in the G-8 office, told Inside the Army last week. "I mean, years ago, people said there's no way you could use the same fuel for tanks and aircraft and vehicles

and we're doing it now."

The goal is to create a modular engine, he added. "So, depending on how much power I need for that engine, I can take these modules and build the engine — whether it's 3,000 horsepower [for a helicopter], 1,200 horsepower for a ground vehicle or 2,000 horsepower for a tank, whatever the case may be."

According to an Army document, the engine program would initially be focused on aviation and then applied to ground vehicles.

The vehicles would then be built to accommodate the size of the engine, which will likely pose a technological challenge for the program. Presently, aircraft engines are significantly larger than those that fit into most ground vehicles; a Black Hawk engine, for example, would not fit under the hood of a humvee.

"That would be one of the things we have to take a look at," Bendyk noted. "Maybe the footprint for a humvee isn't large enough to fit the initial engine that we're designing. We have to take a look and see where we're able to go with technology." The Army, he added, will not build vehicles solely around the engine.

The common engine vision, which was discussed earlier this year at a Horizontal Technology Integration general officer working group meeting, would not only reduce the logistical footprint, but would lead to significant cost savings for both buys and repairs, according to sources.

"You're only buying one engine for the Army," Bendyk said. "All

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## Honors are planned for female private from 507th Maintenance Company in nation's capital

PHOENIX (AP) — Plans are in the works to honor an Army private at the nation's capital as the first known American Indian woman in the U.S. military to have been killed in combat.

Pfc. Lori Piestewa is to be featured in an exhibit set to open May 24 at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, located at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., and later at Memorial Day ceremonies there.

Piestewa was a member of the Hopi Tribe and lived near the Navajo Reservation community of Tuba City in northern Arizona. She was among eight members of the Fort Bliss, Texas-based 507th Maintenance Company ambushed in Iraq whose status was changed Friday from missing in action to killed.

"To the best of our knowledge, she is the first Native American woman in U.S. military service killed as a result of combat," said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, president of the foundation that raised funds to build the memorial at Arlington.



*U.S. Army soldiers from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment check a map while patrolling the streets of Baghdad. The American forces rode into the Iraqi capital earlier Monday. (AP photo)*

# APG female heads DoD packaging school

Story and photo by Yvonne Johnson, APG News

Few people realize that the Ordnance Mechanical Maintenance School has the Department of Defense School of Military Packaging Technology, which is located on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. and that its dean is a woman.

Yvonne Anita Jackson, a native of Glen Burnie, Md., assumed the position as dean in 1999 after 16 years with the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools. The school's fifth dean, Jackson is the first female and the first African-American to head the school.

A former high school science teacher, Jackson said she gained the will to expand her horizons and challenge herself from her mother. "My mother was and still is the focal point in my life," Jackson said. "I wanted to join the Marines but she said I was going to get my college education or else. I could do anything I wanted after that."

She recalled how her mother worked alongside her father as they built the family home together and how they focused their children on the importance of education. The turning point in her education was when her parents placed her in St. Francis Academy, a private, and all black Catholic school for girls in Baltimore.

"Since the school was all black, the only minority issue was that I was not Catholic and that I didn't live in Baltimore," Jackson said. "Attending that school really broadened my horizons," she added, noting her Pentecostal upbringing. "I wasn't interested in becoming a Catholic, but I did want to learn all I could about it," she said. "If nothing else I had to get an 'A' in religion."

Jackson graduated from Morgan State University with a bachelor's in science education in 1968 and taught science at Harlem Park Jr. High School in Baltimore for five years. She also fulfilled her dream of joining the military and served in the Army for roughly 10 years.

In 1983, Jackson began working for OC&S, serving in "developmental jobs," that included teaching the Instructor Training Course and the Small Group Leader Development Course, serving as chief of the Staff and Faculty Development Division and working with Wilbert Davis in the Equal Employment Opportunity office. During this time, she earned a master's in business administration. Prior to assuming her current role, she was the assistant director of the OC&S Command and Staff Department.

Jackson also teaches a Center for the Army Leadership course for military and civilian supervisors.

"The course is a real benefit. It gets you to evaluate yourself as a leader," Jackson said. "With my military background, I'm able to offer the military and civilian line of thought." Jackson said she enjoys the challenge of "opening doors that are closed" and encourages her instructors to promote that confidence in their students.

"The Bible says people perish for lack of knowledge," Jackson said.



*Yvonne Jackson, left, dean of the School of Military Packaging Technology, helps student Lawrence E. Moseley of the Naval Service Warfare Center, Indianhead, Md., in one of several classrooms in building 360. Jackson is the first African-American female to head the Department of Defense school.*

"I tell my people all you have to do is the right thing for the right reason. Anything besides that we can work out."

Jackson has one brother, retired Army Lt. Col. Jerome L. Jackson, who is currently on staff at Walter Reed's National Vaccine Healthcare Center. Her mother, Louise C. Jackson, at 80, is pursuing her doctorate in Christian education.

"She's the reason I was never in a situation where I believed I couldn't accomplish something because I was a woman," Jackson said of her mother, adding that she still teaches Sunday school. "She showed me that you're never too old to learn."

Because the SMPT is a "tough" course in which one failing test grade could mean expulsion, and because personnel of various ages and backgrounds attend, Jackson said that this is a lesson that must be reinforced.

"Accepting the challenge of expanding your mind is a principle we try to instill in all our students. We can't reach everyone, but we have to try," Jackson said.





*Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, seen in this image from video, talks about fighting near the international airport in Baghdad, Sunday, April 6, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. He urged Baghdad residents to remain calm and warned them against firing guns without being told to do so. He also denied that Coalition forces were in the Iraqi capital. (AP Photo/APTN)*

### **Army considering common engine for ground, air vehicles continued**

the parts are the same. . . . If a helicopter breaks down, you can go to the motor pool next door and pull a part and put it right onto your helicopter, or vice versa. The footprint, the logistics would be a hell of a lot easier. And the cost — when you buy more of something, it's always less."

For the time being, the Army is focusing on the development of the Improved Turbine Engine Program, which will be fielded in the 2015 time frame for Black Hawk UH-60M helicopters, as well as Apache Longbows. The CH-47 Chinook is too large and requires more power than the ITEP offers, while the stealthy Comanche helicopter requires a specific engine that fits its platform.

The ITEP offers improved horsepower over the 701-series engines, which are currently featured in Black Hawks, as well as a cooler-running engine, significant improvements in fuel consumption and a modular design that makes repairs easier.

The Army plans to begin funding the ITEP around 2006, with the science and technology program running approximately four years

at a cost of \$50 million. The research, development, test and evaluation program will follow, with costs amounting to an estimated \$100 million.

While the Army begins to commit itself to the ITEP, aviation officials are just beginning to eye the potential for a common air and ground vehicle engine.

"That's what we want to get to, but we're not ready for that yet," Bendyk said. "I don't even think in the S&T world we're ready to start looking at that."

But, he added, this vision of putting an aviation engine into a ground vehicle is not only a possibility, it is a proven concept.

"Did you ever think you'd see a turbine engine in a tank?" he asked. "I mean turbine engines, for all practical purposes, were jet engines . . . back in the 1960s. Now, what powers an M1 tank?"

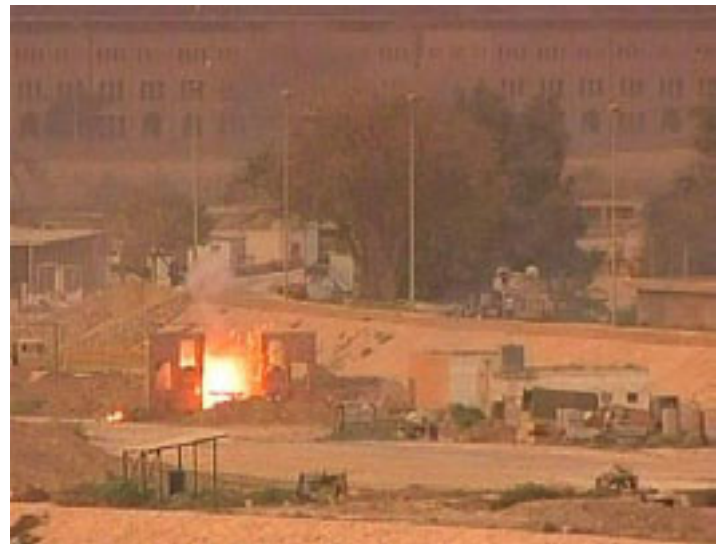
— Megan Scully







*U.S. Army soldiers from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, search one of Saddam Hussein's palaces damaged after a bombing, in Baghdad Monday, April 7, 2003. Coalition soldiers took over key buildings Monday, as gunfire and explosions thundered in many parts of the battered Iraqi capital. (AP Photo/John Moore)*



*A coalition tank, upper right, seen in an image from video, stands on a road adjacent to the Tigris River near an explosion Monday, April 7, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. (AP Photo/APTN)*



*Men seen as black figures in the foreground, believed to be Iraqi soldiers, shown in an image from video, flee along the Tigris River ahead of coalition forces Monday, April 7, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. (AP Photo/APTN)*

*An unidentified man tears down a poster of Saddam Hussein in Basra Monday April 7, 2003, after the British Desert Rats and Royal Marines launched two waves of attacks Sunday, in their effort to control the city. Troops are reporting 'patchy resistance' from isolated pockets of militia, light fire, and rocket-propelled grenades. (AP Photo/Brian Roberts/POOL)*



*U.S. Army soldiers from A Company 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment approach a bomb-damaged presidential palace in Baghdad Monday, April 7, 2003 after entering the Iraqi capital in force at dawn. At center is Lt. Lars Nadig. (AP Photo/John Moore)*